

REGULATORY FOCUS BULLETIN

FILE TOPIC: Environmental

Is there guidance available concerning items and materials that are proper for residents to keep in their room versus those that are inappropriate? Are there regulations that dictate if the following items can or cannot be kept in a resident's room?

- Medications:

- Aspirin, Anacin, Bufferin, Tylenol, Advil, Nuprin, or other pain relief products
- Mentholatum, Vicks, Deep Heat, Ben-Gay, Flex-All or other arthritic rubs
- Vaseline, Olive Oil or Castor Oil
- Sinus Medication – Sinutab, Chlortrimeton, Sudafed or other antihistamines
- Cough syrup, Drops or cold Medicines – Robutussin, Nyquil, Contact, etc.
- Rubbing Alcohol or any liniments
- Ex-Lax or any laxative
- Vitamins
- Eye Medications 0 Visine, Clear Eye's, Etc.
- Anti-acids 0 Maalox, Mylanta, Gaviscon, Peptobismol, etc.
- Sleeping Pills – Sominex, Nytol, etc.
- Foot Powders or Creams – Desinex, etc.
- Hemorrhoid Treatment creams or pads – Preparation H, etc.
- Noxema or any medicated creams or powders

- Household items:

- Aerosol Cans – combustible products, Glass items, Razors with loose blades
- Scissors and Knives, Smoking materials - matches, lighters, etc.
- Plant Food, Cleaning Supplies, Wine or other Alcoholic beverages
- Hot or Cold paks, Scatter rugs, extension cords
- Electrical appliances – coffee pots, toasters, electric blankets, curling irons, iron, space heater, etc.
- Christmas lights

Yes. There are multiple health regulations that speak generally to items and materials that residents can or can not keep in their rooms. Life Safety Code standards and fire standards have specific guidance regarding electrical equipment, extension cords, etc. that may or may not be allowed. A facility should check with the Construction Section regarding the use of appliances, space heaters, extension cords, etc. before using.

Following is a list of federal and state rules addressing the two areas: medications and household items.

Medications

Federal

F176 483.10(n)
F426 483.60(a)
F431 483.60(d)
F432 483.60(e)

State Rules

.2306
.2604
.2605

Household Items

Federal

No Prefix 483.10(1)
F252 483.15(h)(1)
F253 483.15(h)(2)
F323 483.25(h)(1)
F324 483.25(h)(2)
No Prefix 483.70 LSC
F465 483.70(h)

State Rule

.3400

State Statute

1331E-117(14)

The above list is not necessarily all inclusive of the regulations and rules but should provide guidance to facilities in evaluating what kinds of medications and household items should or should not be kept in a resident's room and under what conditions they should be kept in a resident's room. Assessment and care planning are an important part in determining the utilization of these items. Also, the resident population of the facility and/or unit population is important in making determinations about the use of these items.